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-----MEDIA RELEASE-----

**HARTFORD RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED
TO OPEN THEIR HEARTS AND WALLETS
IN WAKE OF HURRICANE KATRINA**

(August 31, 2005)--- In the 1630's, Dutch traders built a fort on land that is now Hartford and they called that fort "The House of Hope". Mayor Eddie Perez is encouraging residents to remember the city's roots and help provide hope and comfort to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Mayor Perez says, "Hartford residents and corporations are so generous and caring, this is the time for New England's Rising Star to rise to the occasion, and give to agencies that can help people who have lost everything in this monstrous storm."

The Mayor goes on to say, "We are all devastated by the loss of life and destruction of property that Hurricane Katrina caused in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Addressing immediate needs and the long-term impact will not be an easy task. However, if Hartford families can do their part, it can make a difference in someone's life."

Cash donations are encouraged. FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) has listed several organizations on its website <http://www.fema.gov/>. However, for those residents who do not have immediate access to a computer, here are some phone numbers:

American Red Cross
1-800-HELP-NOW (435-7669) English
1-800-257-7575 Spanish;

Catholic Charities, USA
1-703-549-1390

Lutheran Disaster Response
1-800-638-3522

Southern Baptist Convention—Disaster Relief
1-800-462-8657, ext. 6440

Salvation Army
1-800-SAL-ARMY (725-2769)

United Methodist Committee on Relief
1-800-554-8583

Many more numbers are listed on the FEMA website. Residents are also encouraged to contact their local place of worship.